

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4694

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: DISCUSSIONS WITH MOD ON BILATERAL STUDY OF IMPLICATIONS
OF NEW MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AND MEANS OF ADVANCING NATO
GOAL OF WEAPONS STANDARDIZATION

SUMMARY: M/GEN BOWMAN(DIR NATO AND EUR AFFAIRS, OSD ISA)
AND EMB POL COUNDS MANSFIELD MET WITH UNDERSEC OF STATE FOR
DEF HOLST ON 17 SEPT TO DISCUSS INITIATION OF A US/NORWAY
PARALLEL STUDY EFFORT ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW MILITARY
TECHNOLOGY ON DEFENSE AND REINFORCEMENT OF NORWAY AND,
SECONDLY, US POLICY AND PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO
INCREASED STANDARDIZATION OF WEAPON SYSTEMS IN THE NORTH
ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. BOWMAN ALSO MET SEPARATELY WITH
MEMBERS OF THE NORWEGIAN DEFENSE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT
TO DISCUSS THE SAME TOPIC. HOLST SAID THAT A BILATERAL STUDY
EFFORT WITH THE US WOULD BE PARTICULARLY WELCOME AT THIS
TIME TO ASSIST NORWAY ALSO IN ITS CURRENT DEFENSE COMMISSION
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REVIEW OF LONG TERM DEFENSE PLANS AND PROGRAMS. HE

OFFERED TO BRING A NORWEGIAN TEAM TO A FOLLOW-ON MEETING IN WASHINGTON FOR DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS FOR STUDY, METHODOLOGY AND PREPARATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE. HOLST WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE VALUE OF SUCH A STUDY AS A BASIS FOR BOTH MILITARY PLANNING AND EVENTUAL COOPERATION IN WEAPONS STANDARDIZATION PROGRAMS. HE AGREED THAT BILATERAL EFFORTS OF THIS SORT WERE ESSENTIAL AS AN ENERGIZER AND CATALYST FOR LATER WORK IN ALLIANCE FORA. END SUMMARY.

1. BOWMAN BEGAN MEETING BY RECOGNIZING IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY HOLST, DEPSECDEF ELSWORTH AND OTHERS IN INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS ON IMPLICATIONS OF NEW MILITARY TECHNOLOGY. HE THEN DESCRIBED ON-GOING US/FRG STUDY DEALING WITH IMPLICATIONS OF POTENTIAL 1990 MILITARY TECHNOLOGY FOR TACTICS AND FORCE STRUCTURE, IN THE CONTEXT OF A SOVIET ARMORED FORCE ATTACK IN THE CENTRAL REGION. HOLST ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE OF US/FRG STUDY AND INDICATED STRONG INTEREST IN STARTING A BILATERAL US/NORWEGIAN EFFORT ON IMPLICATIONS, FOR IMPROVED DEFENSE AND REINFORCEMENT OF NORWAY. HE BELIEVES SUCH A STUDY COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE NORWEGIAN DEFENSE COMMISSION WHICH WILL PRESENT ITS REPORT TO GOVERNMENT IN FIRST QUARTER OF 1977. HE EMPHASIZED THAT NORWAY MUST COUNT ON ALLIANCE COOPERATION AND REINFORCEMENT AND NEEDED A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH ALLIANCE OFFICIALS AND ESPECIALLY WITH US AUTHORITIES TO INSURE THAT NORWEGIAN ANALYSES AND PLANS ARE REALISTIC AND WILL FACILITATE REINFORCEMENT. HE NOTED THAT THE LATTER CONSIDERATION WAS IMPORTANT IN THE SELECTION OF THE F-16 FOR THE NORWEGIAN AIR FORCE.

2. HOLST SUGGESTED AN EARLY MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO LEAD THE NORWEGIAN TEAM. HE OFFERED TO PREPARE SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS BASED ON NORWEGIAN PERSPECTIVES OF THE THREATS THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH. HE AGREED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD REVIEW PREVIOUS RELATED STUDIES, CONSIDER POSSIBLE TERMS OF REFERENCE, AND BEGIN TO PREPARE EARLY PARALLEL ANALYTICAL PAPERS. HE SAID THAT SOME MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE PERSUADED THAT HE WAS NOT TRYING TO UNDERCUT NATO AUTHORITIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT HE WAS SURE THAT HE COULD PERSUADE THEM THAT BILATERAL EFFORTS OF THIS SORT WERE ESSENTIAL AS INPUTS TO ALLIANCE FORA AND PREREQUISITE FOR REAL ALLIANCE PROGRESS.

3. BOTH HOLST AND THE STAFF OF THE NORWEGIAN DEFENSE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT WERE GREATLY INTERESTED IN PROVISIONS OF THE NEW US DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT STATING THAT IT IS US POLICY TO STANDARDIZE WEAPONS WITH NATO ALLIES, AUTHORIZING THE WAIVING

OF "BUY AMERICA" RESTRICTIONS TO FACILITATE ADOPTION OF EUROPEAN EQUIPMENT, CALLING FOR ALIGNMENT OF PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS WITH ALLIANCE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS, AND EMPHASIZING LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS AS A KEY MEANS OF PERMITTING ALLIES TO ADOPT EACH OTHERS EQUIPMENT IN THE INTEREST OF INCREASING STANDARDIZATION. NORWEGIAN REPS PARASIDE THESE NEW US POLICIES AND STRONGLY INDICATED THER DESIRE TO COOPERATE IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. THEY SAID THAT IN THEIR VIEW THERE HAD BEEN GOOD TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND NORWAY IN THE PAST, IN ONE CASE RESULTING IN A FINE NEW SYSTEM, THE PENGUIN SHIP-TO-SHIP MISSILE. THEY WERE DIAPPOINTED THAT OTHER ALLIES HAD NOT ADOPTED THIS MISSILE FOR USE ON SMALL SHIPS, BUT WERE HOPEFUL THAT THE US NAVY MIGHT HAVE AN INTEREST.

4. BOWMAN STATED THAT THE US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTENDED TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY ALL EUROPEAN WEAPONS DEVELOPMENTS AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR ALLIANCE STANDARDIZATION AND FOR LICENSED PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES AS IN THE CASE OF ROLAND. HE SAID THAT IN SOME INSTANCES IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE COST EFFECTIVE TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT DIRECTLY, AND THAT THE US HAD DONE THIS IN THE CASE OF HARRIER AND WOULD ALSO PURCHASE COMPONENTS OF US SYSTEMS FROM EUROPEAN WHEN COST-EFFECTIVE IN ORDER TO FACILITATE NECESSARY EUROPEAN PURCHASES FROM THE US. HE CITED THE F-16 PROGRAM AS IN IMPORTANT PILOT STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM THAT MAKES USE OF BOTH LICENSED PRODUCTION AND DIRECT PURCHASE OF COMPONENTS BOTH WAYS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC. NORWEGIAN REPS INDICATED GREAT INTEREST IN COMPETING IN APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND IN LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS.

5. IN MEETING AT NORWEGIAN DEFENSE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSIONS OF ROLAND, BELGIUM MAG-58 TANK MACHINE GUN, F-16, THE FRG/US TAN HARMONIZATION PROGRAM, AND THE NATO AWACS, REVOLVED AROUND BOTH POLITICAL/ECONOMIC ROADBLOCKS AND GREAT MILITARY IMPORTANCE OF SUCCEEDING IN THESE STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS. NORWEGIANS WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN US EFFORTS TO MAINTAN STANDARD CHARACTERISTICS BETWEEN US AND EUROPEAN ROLAND. BOWMAN EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF AWACS IN MEEING THE NEW LOW ALTITUDE SOVIET AIR ATTACH THREAT AND IN ACHIEVING A SINGLE ALLIANCE SOLUTION RATHER THAN MANY SEPARATE APPROACHES WHICH COULD NOT OPERATE TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY; NORWEGIAN REPS ACCEPTED THE FIRS POINT WITHOUT COMMENT AND INDICATED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SECOND. NORWEGIAN REPS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR ALLIANCE PROGRESS TOWARD INCREASED WEAPONS STANDARIDIZATION.

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